

RIVER STAGES AND FLOODS FOR JULY 1946

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Precipitation during July was very spotty. Most of the central and northern parts of the country were dry, but rainfall averaged above normal along the Atlantic Seaboard, in the Gulf States, in the Southwest, in western Washington, western Montana, and the western parts of the Dakotas.

There was no general flooding during the month, but numerous flash floods occurred at scattered points throughout the country and caused heavy local damage. Streams continued high in the Gulf States for the third consecutive month, but rainfall was well distributed throughout the month and no serious flooding resulted. There was some slight improvement in the drought area of the Southwest.

A severe local flood occurred in the vicinity of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., on July 31, 1946. Plymouth was hardest hit of the towns of the area. The Airway Communication Station at Forty Fort received 7.57 inches of rain in approximately 8 hours. Natural and artificial drainage facilities could not accommodate this torrential rainfall; sections of Plymouth and Kingston experienced heavy damage from water and silt. In Plymouth it was estimated that more damage was suffered than from any Susquehanna River flood in history. The stage of the main stream at Wilkes-Barre rose only from 2.4 to 5.2 feet as a result of the rainfall.

On July 30, 1946, extremely heavy rainfall occurred over a relatively limited area in the vicinity of Carthage, Walnut Grove, and Kosciusko, Miss.; over 7.5 inches of rain were estimated to have fallen at Carthage. Reports indicate that the heavy downpour produced a local flash flood of considerable duration during the night of July 30-31, confined to an area on a minor tributary of the Pearl River flowing through Carthage, Miss.

Rainfall of about 8 inches on July 16-17 over headwater tributaries of the Fox and Chariton Rivers in Iowa produced flash floods on these small streams causing considerable damage to highways, railroads, and small communities. Five lives were reported lost, four of which were due to a bridge washout over an unnamed creek west of Albia.

Cloudbursts in the headwaters of Mount Pleasant Creek in Utah on July 24, caused the most disastrous flood in the history of Mount Pleasant. No lives were lost but considerable damage was suffered locally.

Heavy rains in northeastern Montana from July 5 to 10, resulted in local damage to bridges, roads, and crops. There was an unofficial report of 9 inches of rain within 8 hours at one point. The United States Geological Survey reported that the Poplar River at Bredette, Mont., reached the highest stage in 12 years of record.

Another flash flood was reported on July 18 on Cherry Creek near Melvin, Colo. Hail to a depth of 12 inches was reported from the center of the storm area.

Flood stages were reported at scattered stations throughout the country, as shown in the following table.

FLOOD STAGE REPORT FOR JULY 1946

[All dates in July unless otherwise specified]

River and station	Flood stage	Above flood stages— dates		Crest ¹	
		From—	To—	Stage	Date
ATLANTIC SLOPE DRAINAGE					
Roanoke: Williamston, N. C.	<i>Feet</i> 10	14	15	10.2	15
Neuse:					
Neuse, N. C.	14	12	13	14.7	13
Smithfield, N. C.	13	4	5	14.4	5
Cape Fear: Lock No. 2, Elizabethtown, N. C.	20	12	12	20.0	12
EAST GULF OF MEXICO DRAINAGE					
Tombigbee: Lock No. 3, Ala.	33	{ 8 11	11 15	34.3 35.0	9 13
Pearl: Pearl River, La.	12	{ 10 26	15 26	12.5 12.2	12 26
MISSISSIPPI SYSTEM					
<i>Upper Mississippi Basin</i>					
Middle: Indianola, Iowa.	14	18	20	17.3	19
Des Moines:					
Eddyville, Iowa.	15	17	17	17.6	17
Otumwa, Iowa.	9	17	18	12.5	17
Fox: Wayland, Mo.	15	18	20	18.4	19
Illinois:					
Havana, Ill.	14	June 20	1	15.6	June 23-24
Beardstown, Ill.	14	June 21	4	16.7	June 25
Mississippi:					
Fort Ripley, Minn.	10	June 29	7	10.8	June 30
Hannibal, Mo.	13	18	20	13.7	20
Louisiana, Mo.	12	{ June 30 18	15 20	12.2 12.6	4-10 20
<i>Missouri Basin</i>					
Solomon: Beloit, Kans.	18	{ 7 16	8 18	18.0 21.0	7-8 17-18
Republican:					
Culbertson, Nebr.	6.5	3	3	7.1	3
Guide Rock, Nebr.	10	7	7	10.5	7
Hardy, Nebr.	11	7	7	11.1	7
Scandia, Kans.	10	7	7	10.8	7
Concordia, Kans.	8	{ 7 16	7 16	8.7 8.5	7 16
Clay Center, Kans.	15	{ 8 17	8 18	16.4 18.4	8 17
Wakefield, Kans.	11	17	17	11.2	17
Little Blue: Hanover, Kans.	14	16	16	17.2	16
Big Blue:					
Barnston, Nebr.	18	16	16	19.2	16
Blue Rapids, Kans.	20	16	17	29.2	17
Randolph, Kans.	22	16	17	24.6	17
Kansas: Manhattan, Kans.	17	18	18	17.0	18
Grand: Chillicothe, Mo.	18	June 30	2	20.0	1
<i>Lower Mississippi Basin</i>					
Tallahatchie: Swan Lake, Miss.	26	11	15	26.6	13
WEST GULF OF MEXICO DRAINAGE					
Bayou Cannes: Eunice, La.	16	6	10	21.1	7
Mermentau: Mermentau, La.	5	6	16	8.6	10
Sabine: Bon Wier, Tex.	17	May 29	3	18.4 19.8	June 2-3 June 10
Trinity: Liberty, Tex.	24	4	4	24.0	June 28 4
PACIFIC SLOPE DRAINAGE					
<i>Columbia Basin</i>					
Columbia: Vancouver, Wash.	15	May 9	-----	21.4	June 1

¹ Provisional.